WCGS NEWS

NOVEMBER 1996

NEXT MEETING

Sunday November 17, 3 O'clock, at the Washington County Library. Our speaker will be Debra Blake, Coordinator of the North Carolina Cemetery Project. Ms. Blake will show slides and an example of a "completed" county project. She will welcome comments and questions, and tell us how we can help in the state's commendable effort to record and protect the old burying grounds.

We are fortunate to have, in the Library's vertical files, records of many cemeteries surveyed some years ago by(with the help of many others) Mr. and Mrs. Vance Haskett. "Locating" these, and other, cemeteries on the quadrangle maps by latitude and longitude(degree, minute, and second), as we understand the State requests, would be a long, tedious, time-consuming task. We must ask ourselves if we are "up to the task", and learn if there is an acceptable alternative. I beleive that we are now better prepared to intelligently discuss the Project with Ms. Blake than we were with her predecessor who met with us some six years ago.

If you live within "driving distance", please try to attend this inportant meeting. Bring a friend. Bring your cemetery stories. We will try to keep regular business at a minimum, and have fun.

LAST MEETING

Our nominating committee: Russell Tyson, Shirleyan Phelps, Lawrence F Swain, and Virginia Haire presented their nominations for 1997's offices. All nominees were elected by acclamation .

For 1997, our officers are:

Lawrence Swain	President
Peggy Adams	Vice President
Shirleyan Phelps	Treasurer
Loretta Phelps	Recording Secretary
Virginia Haire	Corresponding Sectretary

Two Directors were also elected:
Russell Tyson
Virginia Haire

"HERITAGE NIGHT"

Kim Webb, our Washington County Librarian, invited the several organizations interested in our county's historical resources to meet at the Library the evening of October 29. Each organization was asked to tell of its objectives, dues structure, publications, etc.

I represented WCGS. In closing, I made the following statement: " As a Society, we are firmly commited to the support of the Washington County Library.....espescially its North Carolina Collection. We have made numerous gifts of books and microfilm, purchased from both our own treasury and from our grant from the Department of Cultural Resources. Our grant has also enabled us to give to the Library a new Reader/Printer for microfilm."

"WCGS looks forward to the continuing pleasure of augmenting our historical resource materials, and of helping our Library become a truly first-class research center for our region".

This was a very pleasant, non-controversial meeting. The various groups had chance to learn a little more about eash other, and the refreshments were great. Well Done, Kim!

DAR

The Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a meeting Tuesday November 19, 2:30 PM, for persons interested in forming a local chapter.

They will meet at the historic "Four Gables", across West Main Street from the venerable old Hampton Academy.

DECEMBER JOURNAL

We wish the ladies well in their efforts to form a local Chapter, How we wish that they were already organized! They would be a great help with our next Journal, which will feature our County's Revolutionary history.

Typing of "December" begins next week, so please bring your articles to Sunday's meeting. Remember, this will not be a "special edition" of only 1776-1783; we need plenty of our "regular" stuff, too. But we do expect to have enough on the WAR to whet our appitites for more.

Tell us of your men of the local miltia, or of the Continental Line.. ...old stories of British sloops and galleys coming up the Sound..... and anything on our home-grown Tories such as Daniel Leggett of Lees Mills, John Garrett, and the Harrisons. We know so little about that conspiracy.

SANBORN MAPS

We have ordered the Sanborn Insurance Maps(as a gift to the library). The Wilson Library, UNC, advises that there are maps for only Plymouth; none for Creswell or Roper.

NORMAN DIARIES

We have long known of the Jeremiah Norman journals in the Southern Historical Collection at UNC, but had no idea that they were available on microfilm. They are!, and one of our member-families is buying them as a memorial gift to the library.

Jeremiah(1771-1843), son of Samuel and Mary Long Norman, was born in what is now Scuppernong Township. He became one of the noted Methodist Circuit Riders, and is credited with being the father of Methodism in the Augusta, Georgia area. He is the several-times-great uncle of the late Zeb Vance Norman, Plymouth attorney, who gave the land on which our library stands.

"GURKIN"

We have received from Jane Stubbs Bailey and James L. Gurkin a copy of their recently published "GURKIN". for presentation by us to the Washington County Library. This is an attractive, well-bound "family history", obviously the product of muchdiligent research and good planning. The authors speak of their book as "A work of love dedicated to all who would dare to research their family name. We hope this will make the task of those researching the GURKIN name a little easier."

Well Done! Thank you, Ms. Bailey and Mr. Gurkin.

DID THE USPS HAVE A BAD HAIR DAY?

Marie and Elwood Long, of Strasburg, VA, returned our "special" NEWS conveying the new roster. It was in sad condition. Mutilated. Torn. Twisted. We appreciate their letting us know; they should have their replacement copy by now. Hope it arrived unscathed; if not, we'll try again.

If anyone else had the same problem, please let us know.

THE OFFICIAL RECORDS

Orders are now coming in; we will give a status report in the December NEWS. Most of us(me included)who pledged early-on have not yet ordered. Let's do soon.

Our largest order to date is from Jean Dunston Caldwell. Three of Jean's gifts will each honor a family group; the forth is dedicated to John Dunston, who rode with the celebrated "Edenton Bell Battery".

To avoid confusion with our bookplates, please remember that most of our local Union soldiers served in either the 1st, or the 2nd, North Carolina UNION VOLUNTEERS. Now we also had men serving in the 1st and the 2nd Regiments, North Carolina Troops. These, of course, were Confederates. So, to avoid confusion when memorializing one who served in a North Carolin regiment designated "1st", or "2nd", we suggest adding "U.S.", or "C.S.A.", as the case may be.We want our ancestors to march beneath the flag of their choice. don't we?

QUERIES

Need names of sons and daughters of Amariah Biggs(born 1767).
Need parents of Amariah Biggs(born 1818). Was he son of Amariah, above?
Richard A. Biggs, 25 Augusta Dr., Wimberly, TX 78676. (512) 847-7313.

Need burial place of Marcus Clifton. Lived in Pear Ridge area.
Also, burial place of William Biggs...and any other information.
Does Piney Grove Church have old records?
Robert Gossett, 4849 Linwood Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 495-3789

I seek info on parents of g-grandfather Joseph Hill Long(1815-1865). His father, Lemuel, married in Northboro, MA(1809). Had Lemuel migrated from from the Albemarle to MA? any facts or suggestions appreciated.
Charles W. Howle, 203 Barrington Dr., Florence, SC 29501-8675.

"BIGGS" IS BIG THIS SEASON

As I was at the library with new member Richard Biggs, Sharon(of the staff)handed me Mr. Gossett's query. Two Biggs seekers in one day! Great!

Their queries, above, were put together by me from scanty information, and must be considered "preliminary". Both will be sending material to us; hopefully, we will have more to print next NEWS.

In a brief phone chat with Mr. Gossett, I'm not sure if I asked him if he knew of the William M. Biggs(Co. C., 89th N.Y Regiment)buried on Blair Shores Road. It's hardly a stone's-throw from Piney Grove .

REMINDERS

Cemetery "Program" Sunday. Please come.
Help "sell" the "OR.
Get your Journal articles to the editor, ASAP.

Ed Norman

A PAGE FROM "GURKIN"

Although I can't document it yet, after a process of elimination, and a study of the census records, wills, and deeds, I believe Joshua Gurkin to be the ancestor of the Pinetown Gurkins. I think he had three sons, Joshua, John and Jeremiah. Jeremiah followed Benjamin to the Pinetown area in 1788 and although I think Frederick and Richard were his sons, and that Frederick and Richard were the parents of Horace of Martin County and Eli Hoyt and E. S. Guirkins of Hyde County, we have not documented those facts.

Horace Gurkin was born in 1812. Numerous land transactions between he, William A. Gurkin and others are recorded for property on Welch's Creek, the boundary between Washington and Martin Counties. The early transactions were in Washington County and adjoined property owned by William A. and James Gurkin. He apparently sold this property in 1847-48 and started buying land in Martin County in 1847.. His first purchase was for 450 acres of the Bald Gray tract.. Horace's family cemetery is located on this property, in Martin County off Hwy 64 on SR 1563, known as the Gray Farm Rd., between Dardens and Jamesville. The cemeteries of his sons Henry A., Charles and Warren William are located within about 1\2 mile of this location.

William A. Gurkin was born about 1820 and first appeared in a Washington County deed transaction in 1844, then in 1845 a deed from Horace Gurkin indicated he might have been a brother to Levi H., Hardy B. and James W. Gurkin. Other deeds and circumstances lead me to believe Harmon Gurkin was their father. William A.'s son William Harmon and grandchildren Will Harmon,, Carrie Ann and Colon Lee are buried in Windley Cemetery and Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, NC. Another grandchild, Charles Gray is buried in Jamesville, NC.

I do not know where Eli Hoyt Gurkin was born or buried but his son James Edmund, and James's wife, Henrietta, are buried in Hyde County near Pantego.

E. S. Guirkin and his son Edwin Stanton are buried in the Elliott Cemetery in Hyde County near Bath. Edwin Stanton married Mary J. Elliott. They had a son named Eli Sherman who is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Washington, NC along with his wife and some of their descendants.

Most of The present Pinetown Gurkins are descended from Frederick's son William. William's children included Elizabeth, Rufus, William Wylie, Horace Oden and Martha Missouri. Most of their descendants are shown. William had five other daughters for which some information is shown.

Since their relationships have not been documented, the descendants of Zachariah, Frederick, Horace, William A. and Eli Hoyt Gurkin, and E.S. Guirkins are shown separately,

Campaign begun by Genealogical Society to buy "Official Records"

At its September meeting, the Washington County Genealogical Society voted to sponsor a campaign to buy the 128-volume THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE. ARMIES IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION. This monumental compilation of official records of the war will be presented to the North Carolina Collection of the Washington County Library.

The Society has committed to pay up to one-third of the total cost of $2,600 (plus shipping, etc.). The remainder will be raised from donations, at $21 per book, from Society members, other organizations, and the general public. Each donor will have a bookplate affixed in his/her gift.

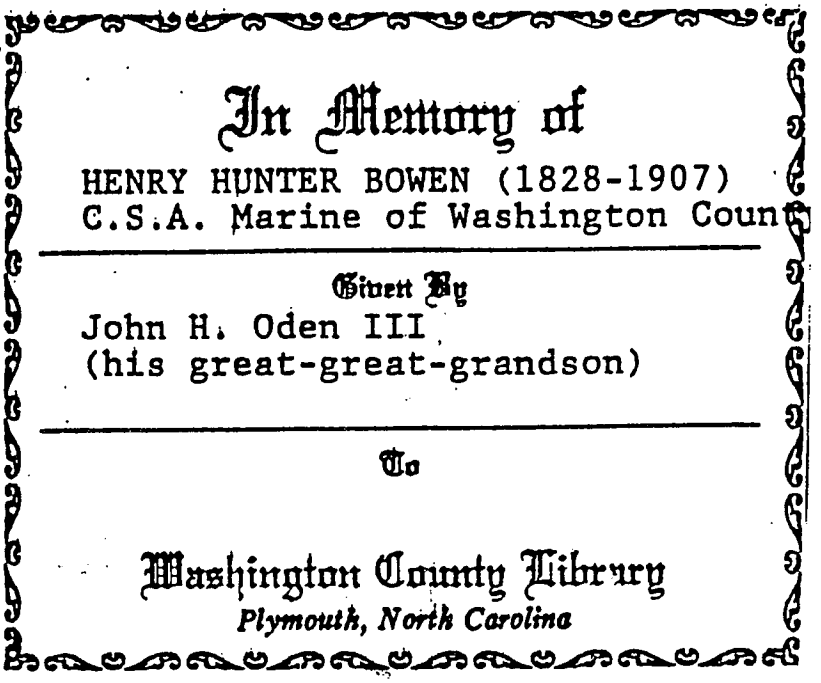
This is an excellent chance to memorialize an ancestor who served in either the Union or the Confederate military. Or, perhaps, a revered great-grandmother who held the family together while the men were away at war.

Some may wish to honor an esteemed preacher, an ancient congregation, or the forebear who first brought the family name to the wilds of Carolina. Another may choose to memorialize that special school teacher, or a soldier of our 20th-Century wars, or a parent—living or dead. The choices are limitless.

The "Official Records" are printed on acid-free paper and bound in "linen-textured buckram impregnated with pyroxylin to withstand wear and tear". These reprints, by Broadfoot Publishing Company, should be in far better condition 100 years from now than are today's rare surviving sets of the "original" U.S. Government publication of 1880-1900.

A century hence, these books will have served generations of researchers at the Washington County Library, Each time a volume is used, the honoree on the bookplate will be freshly commemorated.

Make checks, at $21 per book, to WCGS, and mail to WCGS, P.O. Box 567, Plymouth, NC 27962. Attach the inscription for your bookplate. The "sample" shown below may be a helpful guide.


In Memory of
HENRY HUNTER BOWEN (1828-1907)
C.S.A. Marine of Washington Coun
Given By
John H. Oden III
(his great-great-grandson)
To
Washington County Library
Plymouth, North Carolina

THE ROANOKE BEACON
NOVEMBER 6, 1996

We thank John Oden, President of the North Carolina Genealogical Society (and member of WCGS) for the use of his bookplate from a previous gift to the Washington County Library.

Washington County
Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 567,
Plymouth, NC 27962-0567